

House File 264 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 264

BY FORRISTALL

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to foreign language unit requirements under the
2 educational standards applicable to school districts.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph f, Code
2 2011, is amended to read as follows:

3 *f.* Four sequential units of one foreign language other than
4 American sign language.

5 (1) Provision of instruction in American sign language
6 shall be in addition to and not in lieu of provision of
7 instruction in other foreign languages.

8 (2) The department may waive the third and fourth years
9 of the foreign language requirement on an annual basis upon
10 the request of the board of directors of a school district
11 or the authorities in charge of a nonpublic school if the
12 board or authorities are able to prove that a licensed teacher
13 was employed and assigned a schedule that would have allowed
14 students to enroll in a foreign language class, the foreign
15 language class was properly scheduled, students were aware
16 that a foreign language class was scheduled, and no students
17 enrolled in the class.

18 (3) If the syllabus for any of the four sequential units of
19 a foreign language offered by a school district in accordance
20 with this lettered paragraph is equivalent to a community
21 college course syllabus for instruction in the foreign
22 language, the school district and the community college may
23 participate in the district-to-community college sharing or
24 concurrent enrollment program established pursuant to section
25 261E.8, and be eligible for funding under section 257.11,
26 subsection 3, for any foreign language unit offered by the
27 school district that is equivalent to the community college
28 foreign language course as provided in this subparagraph (3).

29 Sec. 2. Section 257.11, subsection 3, paragraph b,
30 subparagraph (1), Code 2011, is amended to read as follows:

31 (1) Supplementing, not supplanting, high school courses
32 required to be offered pursuant to section 256.11, subsection
33 5, except as provided in section 256.11, subsection 5,
34 paragraph "f", subparagraph (3).

35

EXPLANATION

1 This bill allows a school district offering four sequential
2 units of a foreign language in grades nine through 12, as
3 required under the educational standards by which schools
4 are accredited, to participate in and receive supplementary
5 weighting under the district-to-community college sharing or
6 concurrent enrollment program for any foreign language unit it
7 offers if the unit's syllabus is equivalent to the community
8 college's foreign language course syllabus.

9 Currently, the Code prohibits school districts from
10 receiving supplementary weighting for entering into an
11 agreement with a community college to provide such a course to
12 the school district's students. The only exceptions to the
13 restriction are for career and technical education courses.